

Prince Born to Elizabeth; May Be Next British King



HAPPY PARENTS—Princess Elizabeth, heir presumptive to British throne, and her husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who rejoice in birth of their first child.

(AP Photo)

Huge Crowd at Palace Cheers on Hearing News

LONDON, Nov. 14 (AP)—Princess Elizabeth gave birth to a Prince tonight who may someday become King of England.

The second-in-line heir-presumptive to the throne was born at Buckingham Palace. It was announced that "Her Royal Highness and her son are both doing well."

A reliable source said the royal family had decided to withhold information about the child's weight until tomorrow. There was no explanation.

The first description of the baby came from an anonymous member of the royal household who was allowed to look at the infant: "A lovely boy, a really splendid baby."

Throng Cheers Lustily

An hour and six minutes after the 22-year-old Princess was delivered of her first-born, a man in evening dress who was mistaken for the baby's father, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, appeared in the lighted palace courtyard.

To the huge crowd waiting outside for the joyous news, this was the signal that a child had been born.

A royal page informed a police constable, who released the news to the crowd: "It's a boy!"

The throng cheered lustily for Philip and sang "For he's a jolly good fellow."

A great shout of "Good Old Philip" swelled from thousands of throats for the handsome young Prince who was married to Elizabeth last year.

Their young Prince was born just six days short of the royal couple's wedding anniversary—Nov. 20.

As the crowd heard the news high officials of the royal household, their faces beaming in smiles, watched the crowd's reaction from a palace doorway.

Brief Announcement

In its brief official announcement, Buckingham Palace said "Her Royal Highness, the Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, was safely delivered of a Prince at 9:14 p.m. (2:14 p.m. PDT) today."

The first visitor to the Palace

after the announcement was made was 81-year-old Queen Mary. As she drove through the Palace gates to see her first great-grandchild the crowd gave her a tremendous cheer.

Later Philip took the King and Queen in to see their first grandchild. The Queen embraced her son-in-law and the King shook his hand.

Drink to Baby's Health

Shortly after Queen Mary arrived the Duke opened a bottle of champagne. The first health to the baby Prince was drunk by Philip and his staff, including Lt. Gen. Sir Frederick Browning, wartime chief of Britain's airborne forces and now comptroller to the Princess and the Duke, and Philip's equerry, Lt. Michael Parker.

When Philip was advised that Elizabeth had regained consciousness he went to her bedside and remained alone with her for some time.

In the Palace business quarters the telephone switchboard was flooded with calls from all over the Island Kingdom. Within an hour notes and messages of congratulations began arriving by messengers.

Historic Event

The fairy tale drama of Britain's exciting week-end ended on a high note for the patient throng which had milled outside the Palace gates awaiting the news of the historic event.

The news that Elizabeth's child was a son told the normally stolid Londoners what they wanted to hear—that the royal heir was a child who might someday be their King.

Then a great rhythmic chant of "We want Philip. We want Philip. We want Philip." went up and continued for five minutes.

In the royal suite the proud

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THOUSANDS CHEER—The throng outside the gates of Buckingham Palace in London cheers the announcement

that Princess Elizabeth gave birth to a Prince who someday may become King of the vast domain of the empire. (AP Wirephoto)

PRINCESS HAS SON

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grandfather of the new Prince, the King of England, and Queen Elizabeth, the grandmother, were quietly receiving the felicitations of their household.

No members of the royal family appeared on the palace balcony to greet the crowd. Apparently it was not considered appropriate for Philip to make a public appearance despite the urging of the crowd.

Slips Through Side Door

Tonight, when the expected time of the birth arrived, Elizabeth was sitting with her lady-in-waiting, Lady Mary Strachey and her midwife-nurse, Helen Rowe. Sister Rowe, who had been in almost constant attendance upon the Princess, called in Sir William Gilliat.

The obstetrician examined Elizabeth and notified Sir John Weir, royal family physician who went at once to the palace, slipping in through a side door unnoticed by the crowd outside.

Both physicians saw Elizabeth, then had dinner in the palace.

Miss Margaret (Bobo) MacDonald, who has been Elizabeth's personal attendant since childhood, remained close to the Princess all evening.

Official notification of the birth of the new Prince of the House of Windsor was forwarded tonight to dignitaries at home and overseas by Sir Alan Lascelles, the King's secretary.

Signals New Generation

Child of dynasty, the royal infant born to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip symbolizes the pride and faith of millions who pledge allegiance to Britain's throne.

The babe is second-in-line heir presumptive to the crown now worn by the grandfather, King George VI. But many years may pass before it ever touches scepter. King George is only 54 and in excellent health. Princess Elizabeth is 22.

In this birth the patriotic Briton sees added depth to the strength and continuity of the constitutional monarchy. The child signals a new generation. To the British it is a generation which, like all the generations before it, holds to the past, yet moves steadily into the future.

Selection of stolid, unpretentious Buckingham Palace for the baby's birthplace was in keeping with that symbolism. The only other royal heir born there made his arrival a century ago. That child was the eldest son of Queen Victoria, who lived to reign as Edward VII. His long and happy life is seen as a good augury for his latest descendant.

But Buckingham Palace will be only a temporary home for the baby. Workmen are nearly through restoring bomb-damaged Clarence House. This is the official residence of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. It is only a short walk from the palace and near Marlborough House, occupied by the Princess' grandmother, Queen Mother Mary. The new households expect to move in sometime this winter.

Nursery Set Up

Meanwhile, a temporary nursery has been set up at Buckingham Palace. Unelaborate, its most historic piece of furniture is a 100-year-old baby bed, last used by the late Duke of Kent, youngest brother of King George VI.

Gifts for the baby have been arriving at the palace for weeks. Many have been returned to their donors. The royal family makes it a rule to accept presents only from personal friends or from people who, by their position in the public life of this or of other countries, are entitled to felicitate royalty.

The family plans no public display of these gifts such as was made of the presents received by Princess Elizabeth at her wedding just a year ago this month.

In fact, unless the donors talk, not much will be known about

most of them until—as inevitably happens—the details leak out through talk of the small coterie that surrounds the royal family. That is in keeping with the Windsor family's studied practice of keeping their private lives as much apart from the rest of the world as does any other British family. And nowhere in the world do people keep their private affairs to themselves so much as in this country where even the flower beds on the front lawn often are walled away from the view of passers-by.

Private Christening

The first big event in the baby's life—the christening—will be private. It may take place at Sandringham, the King's favorite country home. If so, it is likely to be next month. The royal family usually spends Christmas at Sandringham. Thus the christening could easily become the outstanding feature of the 1948 holiday season.

Selection of a name for the child may not be announced until shortly before the christening. As second-in-line to the throne the baby may have a lot of names. Tradition and symbolism play a big part in this. On the other hand, each of the parents has short names, and each prefers simplicity.

In selecting names for royal children, the British like symbols. There are such as George and Elizabeth for England, Andrew and Mary for Scotland, or David for Wales and Patrick for Ireland. Whatever is decided, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip will have plenty of time in the next few weeks to talk it over.

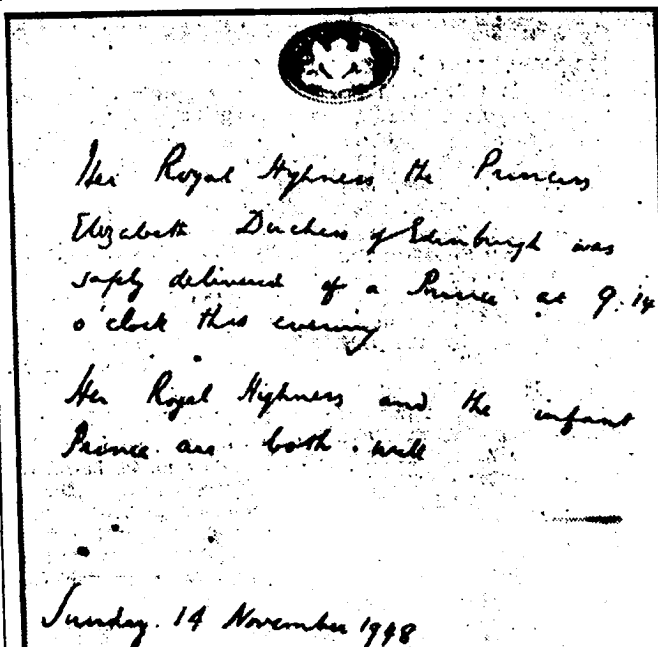
Prince Philip is now temporarily a "gentleman of leisure." He holds a commission as lieutenant in the Royal Navy and was on active duty until October. Then he was placed on half pay at his own request in order to be with his wife during the final weeks of her confinement and for the first six months of next year.

Council to Rule

The Princess will be a busy woman during that period. Not only will she have the care of her child but will also be deputizing for her father, who with Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose will leave England for an extended royal tour of Australia and New Zealand.

The King will appoint a Council of State, headed by Prince Elizabeth, to rule during his absence. This will require his presence at Buckingham Palace more than usual and will bring on many public appearances which Prince Philip will accompany her.

So for the next two months the couple will make the most being just human beings—the parents of their first baby.



BIRTH PROCLAIMED—Here is close-up of official announcement from royal palace that son was born to Princess Elizabeth, who is known as Duchess of Edinburgh. (AP Wirephoto)